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# State Court & County

Law Libraries

# NEWS

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*Newsletter of the State, Court and County SIS of the American Association of Law Libraries*



Before we know it, it will be July 19 through July 24, 1997, and we shall again be meeting with our colleagues, commiserating and strategizing for our collective future as law librarians in Baltimore, Maryland.

The 90th Annual Meeting of AALL will take place at the Baltimore Convention Center. The theme for this meeting is "From Narragansett to Now: Covering the Waterfronts", referring to AALL's birth on Narragansett Pier, Rhode Island, in 1906, the "Now" of Baltimore's Inner Harbor and the magnificent history of providing access to legal information that has transpired between these two meetings.

A number of excellent educational programs are being designed by SCCLL members to highlight our contributions to providing access to legal/court histories as well as to legal information. More detail on the content of these programs shall follow in the next newsletter.

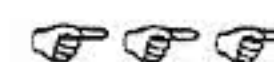
## **BALTIMORE FOR BREAKFAST? A BREAK WITH TRADITION!**

In Baltimore, we will be breaking with the long-standing tradition of the Sunday morning meeting of SCCLL-SIS starting with a sumptuous break-

fast. Our business meeting will start at 9 a.m. and be followed at 10 a.m. by an educational program being designed by Gale Warren, Chair-Elect.

This paradigm shift is caused by the creation of an 8 to 9 a.m. slot for an Exhibitors Breakfast on Sunday which is open to all. Therefore, we will forego breakfast as a section.

The issue then arises as to whether you might want to have a luncheon with your State, Court, and County Law Library colleagues on Sunday at noon after our educational program. If you want to participate in such a luncheon, please advise me by January 15, 1997, by fax at 702-455-5120, by telephone at 702-455-4697 or at



## **CONTENTS**

<b>AALL GRANTS APPLICATION</b>	<b>ATTACHED</b>
<b>BETHANY J. OCHAL AWARD--CRITERIA</b>	<b>PAGE 3</b>
<b>BETHANY J. OCHAL AWARD--CALL FOR NOMINATIONS</b>	<b>PAGE 5</b>
<b>INTERNET DUET</b>	
<b>INTERNETTING: ALTERED STATES OF MIND</b>	<b>PAGE 10</b>
<b>TEACHING THE INTERNET: A LOW COST APPROACH</b>	<b>PAGE 8</b>
<b>SCCLL LENGTH OF MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>PAGE 7</b>
<b>SCCLL LENGTH OF MEMBERSHIP FORM</b>	<b>ATTACHED</b>
<b>SCCLL 1997 SLATE ANNOUNCED</b>	<b>PAGE 7</b>



rockyfrank@aol.com, or contact me by any of these means to express an opinion against such a luncheon.

### **STATISTICS INITIATIVE/NEXT STEP**

My recommendation in the Fall newsletter for the collection of statistics into a database to be used for the purpose of budget advocacy received two thoughtful and positive endorsements. I will be trying to work with the authors of those responses, Ann Koto, State Law Librarian of Hawaii, and Kalyn Gabriel, who supervises the Skagit and Whatcom County Law Libraries in Washington, to design the database and explore methods of collection.

Perhaps, we can make the database available thorough headquarters or on our listserv. We do need to consider completing the design of this project in time for our Executive Board to consider it and in time for a budget request to Roger Parent, AALL Executive Director, by January 20, 1997, and to the AALL Executive Board before its February 3, 1997, deadline for its February 28—March 2 Meeting.

Anyone who is interested in participating in this project should contact me at any of the numbers noted above.

### **A DESERVING TRUSTEE/JUDGE IS TO BE HONORED**

Justice George Nicholson, Associate Justice of the California Court of Appeal, Third District, has been nominated for Honorary Membership to AALL.

In submitting Nicholson's name for this honor, AALL's Working Group on Information Technology and Implementation cited Nicholson's participation on several AALL programs and committees, his writings, his ongoing advocacy of the special roles played by law librarians in today's legal information environment, and his role as trustee of the Sacramento County Law Library. Shirley David

(Director, Sacramento County Law Library, Sacramento, California) of the Working Group has said, "We feel that Justice George Nicholson should be made an honorary member for his continued interest in furthering the law librarian's professional image. The message he brings across to our members is that we should see ourselves as proactive and valuable members of the legal community with much expertise that can be shared more widely."

Justice Nicholson was a speaker at the State Court and County Law Libraries SIS program in San Francisco (1992). He provided both planning advice, spoke on two programs (and the preview program in Seattle 1994), served on the panel that summarized the Legal Information Issues Conference in Pittsburgh (1995) as well co-authored a substantial article for the conference proceedings. Justice Nicholson also served as faculty of the 1996 AALL Winter Institute Teleconference. The Information Technology and Implementation Working Group was established by AALL as a direct result of his recommendations to the AALL Government Relations Committee. He currently serves as an advisor to the Working Group. Justice Nicholson is generous with his praise of our individual accomplishments as law librarian and makes every effort to make opportunities for our voices to be heard within the organizations and projects he is involved.

For all the reasons cited above, I will be also introducing a request at the SCCLL-SIS Business Meeting in Baltimore to nominate Justice Nicholson as an Honorary Member of our Section. I have also asked the Awards Committee to consider designing an award for Trustees or Library Committee members.

Our by-laws do not contain a provision for honorary membership. Therefore, I will also ask the Bylaws Committee to draft some language so we can consider honorary members as a matter of course.

# Criteria and Procedures

## THE BETHANY J. OCHAL AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

*Draft for SIS Executive Committee Approval, December 9, 1996*

**DEFINITION AND CRITERIA:** The Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession is awarded to a State, Court and County Special Interest Section member who had made a significant contribution to law librarianship and who is nearing the end of his or her library career or who has retired recently. The award may be given every third year beginning in 1994. Among the criteria to be considered are the following:

- Achievement in a state, court, or county law library
- Contributions to the State Court and County Special Interest Section of AALL
- Contributions to the American Association of Law Libraries
- Contributions to the professional literature
- Recognition by members of the legal or governmental community the recipient served
- Contributions to legal research, teaching, outreach efforts
- Service to the profession of law librarianship
- Mentoring of younger members of the profession

**PROCEDURES FOR ADVERTISING THAT NOMINATIONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED:** The committee is encouraged to advertise that nominations are open as extensively as possible. At minimum an announcement soliciting nominations that includes the criteria will be published in the AALL State, Court and County SIS Winter newsletter. Other suggested sources for advertising include the AALL *Spectrum*, the State, Court and County listserv, AALLNET and Lawlib-l.

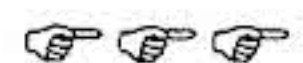
**PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING NOMINATIONS:** Nominations for the Bethany J. Ochal Award for Distinguished Service to the Profession may be submitted by any member of the AALL or any member of the constituency that the nominee served. Members of the Awards Committee may not submit names for consideration. A statement supporting the nomination and enough copies to distribute for each Nominations Committee member will be sent to the Chair of the Nominations Committee. If the committee so chooses, nominations' statements may also be sent via e-mail to the chair. Supporting documentation such as citations or copies of publications of the nominee is also encouraged.

**DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS:** March 30

**FREQUENCY AND NUMBER OF AWARD:** The Award may be presented every third year beginning in 1994. Only one award may be given, but there is no requirement that an award be given.

**JURY:** The entire Awards Committee will serve as the jury.

**SELECTIONS PROCEDURE:** Each candidate will be judged according to the criteria listed above. Sources of information for the committee about a candidate include the nominating papers, and published materials. To ensure confidentiality, contact with members of AALL other than the person(s) nominating the candidate and other Awards Committee members will be avoided.



## CRITERIA SET FOR OCHAL AWARD

The Awards Committee has worked with Executive Board member Ken Svengalis to develop an excellent set of criteria for the Bethany Ochal Award. The Executive Board has approved these criteria in December 1996 and will present these criteria for membership approval at the Business Meeting in Baltimore. Those criteria are set forth on Page 3.

**THAT'S ALL, FOLKS!**

That's all for now. I hope to see you in Baltimore. Please, get involved before Baltimore by responding to one of the above solicitations or by simply brainstorming law library issues and needs with your colleagues whenever possible. 📖

*--Frank Alan Herch  
Clark County Law Library  
Las Vegas, Nevada*

### ☞ ☞ ☞ OCHAL AWARD CRITERIA

The Chair of the Committee will provide each member copies of the nominations papers and access to all materials submitted in the nominations process. Each committee member will determine individually their preference(s). At a date set by the committee chair and mutually agreed upon by the committee, the members will meet via telephone conference call or other agreed upon method to come to a consensus on which candidate will be given the award. If no nominations have been made by the March 30 deadline, the committee may at their option choose a member who fits the criteria to receive the award. Selection will be made by April 15.

**NOTIFICATION:** Notification will first be made to the Executive Committee of the State, Court and County SIS. Notification to the AALL Award Committee Chair must be made by May 1 to ensure that the award recipient's name is included in the AALL Awards and Acknowledgments brochure at the annual meeting. The name of the recipient will be confidential until it is awarded at the annual meeting.

**THE AWARD:** The award will be a commendation presented by State, Court and County Law Libraries SIS Awards Committee Chair. The commendation may be framed or a plaque at the discretion of the Awards Committee who will be responsible for producing it. The Awards Committee will submit a budget item to the executive committee for the estimated cost of the award by the deadline set by the executive committee.

**PUBLICITY:** A press release will be prepared by the committee for release after the award has been presented. It will at the minimum be sent to the recipient's local legal newspaper, the State, Court and County Law Libraries SIS newsletter, and the recipient's AALL local chapter newsletter. A letter announcing the award will also be sent to the recipient's employer. Thank-you notes will also be prepared to all who submitted nominations. 📖

